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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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THE QUALITY OF ANTIPNEUMOCOCCIC AND ANTIMENINGOCOCCIC SERUMS.

In order that those who use antipneumococcic and antimeningococcic serums shall be assured that such of these serums as are sold in interstate traffic are suitable for therapeutic purposes, each lot of these products made by the various manufacturers is tested at the Hygienic Laboratory of the United States Public Health Service prior to being placed on the market.

The quality of antipneumococcic serum is judged by its protective value against Type I pneumococci, using mice for test purposes.

Antimeningococcic serum is tested by agglutination and complement fixation tests, such as prove satisfactory by either test being passed.

EFFECT OF FREEZING ON THE ORGANISMS OF TYPHOID FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA.[1]

By JOSEPH BOLTEN, Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

The occurrence during the summer of 1917 of an outbreak of diphtheria [2] and one of typhoid fever,[3] which seemed properly attributable to the ingestion of infected ice cream, constituted the reason for determining, under experimental conditions, how long the typhoid bacillus and the diphtheria bacterium would survive freezing, and whether freezing had any influence on the pathogenicity of the latter organism.

Results with B. typhosus.

To determine the length of time typhoid organisms would live in cream that had been frozen solid, the following experiment was undertaken on October 4, 1917.

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[1] From the Hygienic Laboratory.

[2] McCoy, Bolten, and Bernstein, Public Health Reports, vol. 32, No. 43, Oct. 26, 1917, pp. 1787-1804.

[3] Personal communication from Surgeon L. L. Lumsden.